

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-16, 18-24, 26-28 and 30-34 are presently pending in this application. Claims 18 and 30 have been amended in this response.

In the Office Action mailed January 14, 2004, claims 2-4, 6-16, 18-24, 26-28 and 30-34 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 2-4, 6-13, 15, 16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,400,213 to Honda et al. ("Honda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,304,250 to Yang et al. ("Yang"), U.S. Patent No. 5,510,953 to Merkel ("Merkel"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,955,797 to Kim ("Kim");

(B) Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Merkel, Kim, and U.S. Patent No. 5,903,259 to Brusky et al. ("Brusky");

(C) Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Merkel, Kim, and U.S. Patent No. 6,205,021 to Klein et al. ("Klein");

(D) Claims 26, 28 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang and Kim;

(E) Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Kim, and Brusky; and

(F) Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Kim, and Klein.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on March 30, 2004. During that telephone conference, the present Office Action, the Kim reference, and a proposed amendment to claim 18 were discussed. The following remarks summarize and expand upon the points discussed in the March 30 telephone conference.

A. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 2-4, 6-13, 15, 16 and 18-21

Claims 2-4, 6-13, 15, 16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Merkel, and Kim.

1. Claim 18 Is Directed to a Portable Computer Having a Base and a Removable Wireless Keyboard With a Power Supply Independent of the Base That Includes an External Alternating Current Power Adapter Fixedly Mounted to the Keyboard

Aspects of the invention are directed toward a portable personal computer that includes a base and a removable wireless keyboard that can be mounted within the base. The keyboard has a power supply independent of the base that includes an external alternating current power adapter. An advantage of this arrangement is the ability to use the keyboard remotely without interruption to charge the battery.

In particular, claim 18 is directed to a portable personal computer including a base having a recess and a controller, a display attached to the base, and a removable wireless keyboard for communicating with the controller in the base. The wireless keyboard communicates with the controller through a signal interface when the keyboard is mounted into the base and through a wireless connection when the keyboard is removed from the base. The keyboard has an upper surface, a lower surface, and at least one side surface. When the keyboard is mounted in the base, the lower surface and/or the at least one side surface is received in the recess. The removable wireless keyboard also has a power supply independent of the base that includes an external alternating current power adapter fixedly mounted to the keyboard. Accordingly, a computer having the features recited in claim 18 can achieve the benefits described above.

2. Honda Discloses a Computer Having a Case and a Keyboard Electrically Coupled to the Case by a Curled Cord

Honda discloses a computer having a case and a removable keyboard. The front of the case has a stepped portion on which the keyboard can be placed. The removable keyboard is electrically connected to the case by a curled cord which extends through a bottom surface of the stepped portion. Accordingly, the keyboard

can be removed from the stepped portion and operated a short distance away from the case.

3. Yang Discloses a Computer System Having a Wireless Keyboard With a Battery

Yang discloses a computer system including a monitor, a computer, and a keyboard with a battery and a battery charger. The keyboard can communicate with the computer via a cable or wireless signals. When the keyboard is connected to the computer with the cable, the computer provides current to the battery charger for charging the battery and operating the keyboard. When the keyboard operates wirelessly, the battery powers the keyboard.

4. Merkel Discloses a Concealed Locking Assembly for a Removable Portable Computer Keyboard

Merkel discloses a portable computer having a removable keyboard assembly and a base housing. The removable keyboard assembly includes a base pan and a rectangular monoblock support structure receivable within the base pan. The removable keyboard assembly is received in an opening in the base housing.

5. Kim Discloses a Portable Computer With AC Adapter Configured to be Housed in the Battery Pack Bay or Detached From the Computer

Kim discloses a portable computer with a battery pack and an AC adapter for providing DC power to the computer. The AC adapter has the same configuration as the battery pack so that when the battery pack is removed from the computer, the AC adapter can be inserted into the battery pack receiving bay. (Kim, Figure 6A.) When the battery pack is received in the battery pack receiving bay and the AC adapter is spaced apart from the computer, a DC output cable can connect the AC adapter to the computer. (Kim, Figure 5A.) One purpose of Kim's invention is "to provide a portable computer in which the AC adapter is incorporated with the computer such that the AC adapter may be received in the battery pack receiving bay in a detachable way." (Kim, col. 2, ll. 34-37.) Therefore, "when the AC adapter is installed instead of the battery pack, the continuous usage of the battery pack, i.e., frequent charging/discharging of

the battery can be prevented, and thus poor performance and shortening of the battery life can be effectively prevented." (Kim, col. 7, ll. 31-35.)

6. Honda, Yang, Merkel, and Kim Fail to Disclose or Suggest a Portable Computer Having a Base and a Removable Wireless Keyboard With a Power Supply Independent of the Base That Includes an External Alternating Current Power Adapter Fixedly Mounted to the Keyboard

Honda, Yang, Merkel, and Kim fail to disclose a portable computer having "a removable wireless keyboard" with "a power supply independent of said base" that "includes an external alternating current power adapter fixedly mounted to said keyboard," as recited in claim 18. For example, assuming for the sake of argument that Kim's AC adapter corresponds, at least in part, to the alternating current power adapter of claim 18, Kim fails to disclose an alternating current power adapter "fixedly mounted to said keyboard." To the contrary, Kim's AC adapter is removable from the keyboard. Consequently, the applied references fail to disclose each and every feature of claim 18.

Moreover, there is no motivation or suggestion to modify the applied references to include "a removable wireless keyboard" having "a power supply independent of said base" that "includes an external alternating current power adapter fixedly mounted to said keyboard," as recited in claim 18. For example, there is no motivation or suggestion to modify Kim's computer so that the AC adapter is fixedly mounted to the keyboard because such a modification would render Kim's computer unsatisfactory for one of its intended purposes. One intended purpose of Kim's portable computer is to provide an AC adapter configured to be housed within or detached from the battery pack receiving bay. If Kim's portable computer were modified to fix the AC adapter to the keyboard, the purpose of Kim's device would be thwarted. Furthermore, if Kim's AC adapter were fixed to the computer in the battery bay, Kim's portable computer would no longer be able to receive a battery and operate without AC power. The MPEP provides that "[i]f [a] proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." MPEP § 2143.01. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill

in the art would not be motivated to modify Kim's computer to fixedly mount the AC adapter to the keyboard. Consequently, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 18 should be withdrawn because (a) the applied references fail to disclose each and every element of the claim 18, and (b) there is no motivation or suggestion to modify the references to include the elements of claim 18.

Claims 2-4, 6-13, 15, 16 and 19-21 depend from claim 18. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 18 and for the additional features of these claims.

B. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claim 14

Claim 14 depends from claim 18 and accordingly includes, *inter alia*, the features of claim 18. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Merkel, Kim, and Brusky. Brusky fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Honda, Yang, Merkel, and Kim to properly support a Section 103(a) rejection of claim 18 (as discussed above) and, because claim 14 includes the features of claim 18, claim 14 as well. For example, the combination of Honda, Yang, Merkel, Kim, and Brusky fails to disclose or suggest "a removable wireless keyboard" having "a power supply independent of said base" that "includes an external alternating current power adapter fixedly mounted to said keyboard," as recited in claim 14. Brusky merely discloses a computer system having a wireless keyboard that can remotely control a standard computer and another device. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.

C. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 22-24

Claims 22-24 depend from claim 18 and accordingly include, *inter alia*, the features of claim 18. Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Merkel, Kim, and Klein. Klein fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Honda, Yang, Merkel, and Kim to properly support a Section 103(a) rejection of claim 18 (as discussed above) and, because claims 22-24 include the features of claim 18, claims 22-24 as well. For example, the combination of Honda, Yang, Merkel, Kim, and Klein fails to disclose or suggest "a removable wireless

keyboard" having "a power supply independent of said base" that "includes an external alternating current power adapter fixedly mounted to said keyboard," as recited in claims 22-24. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 22-24 should be withdrawn.

D. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 26, 28 and 30-33

Claims 26, 28 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang and Kim. Independent claim 30 includes, *inter alia*, features generally similar to those described above with reference to claim 18. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 30 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 18 and for the additional features of this claim.

Claims 26, 28 and 31-33 depend from claim 30. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 30 and for the additional features of these claims.

E. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claim 27

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Kim, and Brusky. Claim 27 depends from claim 30. As discussed above with reference to claim 14, Brusky fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Honda, Yang, and Kim. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 27 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claims 14 and 30 and for the additional features of claim 27.

F. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claim 34

Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Yang, Kim, and Klein. Claim 34 depends from claim 30. As discussed above with reference to claims 22-24, Klein fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Honda, Yang, and Kim. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 34 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claims 22-24 and 30 and for the additional features of claim 34.

G. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests reconsideration of the application and an allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the above-noted distinctions between the claims and the cited references, or any other distinctions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact David Dutcher by telephone. Additionally, if the Examiner notices any informalities in the claims, he is also encouraged to contact David Dutcher to expediently correct any such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,

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